

SENATE RESOLUTION 118
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Harry W. "Wes"
Stowers on the celebration of his 50th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Harry W. "Wes" Stowers celebrated his 50th birthday on February 3, 2004, a milestone commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, a leader since his youth, Wes Stowers graduated from The McCallie School in Chattanooga and became an Eagle Scout before accepting an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy; and

WHEREAS, this intrepid Tennessean completed a Bachelor of Science in Management in 1976; he later earned a Master of Science in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Institute and also completed F-4 training, being honored as "Air-to-Air Top Gun" of his class; and

WHEREAS, having answered his nation's call to duty, Wes Stowers continued to uphold Tennessee's proud tradition of volunteerism by serving in our nation's armed forces until 1998; and

WHEREAS, from 1976 through 1988, he served the U.S. Air Force as a fighter pilot and instructor pilot in F-4G, F-4E, F-4D, and T-38A aircraft, taking on assignments throughout the Continental United States and Western Europe; and

WHEREAS, from 1988 until 1998, he was a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve and served as Director of the 420 Liaison Officer Group before taking a well-deserved retirement on July 2, 1998, having attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, this gallant warrior earned numerous awards and commendations during his career, including recognition as "Outstanding Liaison Officer of the Nation" in 1993 for his work in assisting prospective Air Force Academy cadets with their applications; and

WHEREAS, since that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of his peers, employees and clients through his work with Stowers Machinery Corp., which he has served as President and CEO since 1992; and

WHEREAS, the end of Lt. Col. Stowers's military service did not mark the end of his service to his community, as he has employed his considerable talents as a member of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative of Caterpillar Tractor Dealers, Home Federal Bank, Tennessee Road Builders, Holston Gases, Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership, Webb School of Knoxville, Baptist Health System of East Tennessee, Nucleus Knoxville, American Heart Association, and the Tennessee Museum of Aviation, as 2nd Vice President of Tennessee Coal Association, as a Fundraiser and Volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America, as a member of the Academy nomination boards for Senators Frist and Alexander, and as President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Southeastern Caterpillar Dealer Association; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, Wes Stowers upholds the highest family values and is most grateful for the great love and companionship he shares with his wife, Liz; he is also the proud father of two daughters, Lisa and Rachel; and

WHEREAS, as Mr. Stowers enters his 6th decade, he is renowned as one of the greater Knoxville community's most outstanding citizens and resources; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially honor a truly exceptional Tennessean on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join the family and friends of Harry W. "Wes" Stowers in celebrating his 50th birthday, thank him for his meritorious service to this state and our nation, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.